

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A knee protection airbag device arranged in front of the knees of a seated vehicle occupant, the airbag device comprising:

a case ~~opened rearward~~ that opens toward the rear of the vehicle ~~for housing the,~~ wherein the case houses a folded airbag and the an inflator for supplying, which supplies the airbag with inflation gas;

an airbag cover assembled with the case, wherein:

the airbag cover ~~comprising~~ includes a door portion covering the opening of the ~~case, case;~~

the door portion ~~openable~~ is adapted to open upon deployment of the airbag; and

the door portion includes at least an upper door that opens upwardly; and

an interior decoration member for the vehicle provided separate from the airbag cover, the interior decoration member being arranged around the airbag ~~cover, cover,~~ whereby wherein the airbag, upon inflow of inflation gas from the inflator, pushes open the door ~~portion,~~ and portion and expands and inflates ~~upward~~ upwardly while protruding ~~rearward toward the rear~~ of the ~~vehicle; and~~ vehicle, and the dimensions of the upper door are such that a gap formed between the interior decoration member and the airbag is covered when the airbag is deployed

~~the door portion including at least an upper door openable upward;~~

~~the upper door having the dimension thereof enough to cover a gap formed between the interior decoration member and the airbag cover when opened upon deployment of airbag.~~

2. (Currently amended) A knee protection airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein the door portion comprises, below the upper door, a lower door ~~openable~~ that is adapted to open downward upon deployment of airbag.

3. (Currently amended) A knee protection airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein:  
the airbag cover comprises a general portion arranged around the door portion; and  
the interior decoration member is extended to a position ~~at the vehicle's~~ rearward of the general portion so as to be supported by the general portion.

4. (New) A knee protecting airbag device arranged below a steering column of a vehicle, the device comprising:

an airbag;

a case attached to the vehicle for housing the folded airbag, wherein the case has a recessed section at a front side thereof so that the recessed section can accommodate the steering column when shifted; and

an inflator attached to the case for inflating the airbag.

5. (New) The knee-protecting airbag device according to claim 4, wherein the case opens toward the rear of the vehicle, the case houses the inflator, and the airbag device further comprises:

an airbag cover assembled with the case, wherein:

the airbag cover includes a door portion covering the opening of the case;

the door portion is adapted to open upon deployment of the airbag; and

the door portion includes at least an upper door that opens upwardly; and

an interior decoration member for the vehicle provided separate from the airbag cover, wherein the interior decoration member is arranged around the airbag cover, and the airbag, upon inflow of inflation gas from the inflator, pushes open the door portion and expands and inflates upward while protruding toward the rear of the vehicle, and the dimensions of the upper door are such that a gap formed between the interior decoration member and the airbag is covered when the airbag is deployed.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached drawing sheets include a change to Fig. 1 and a change to Fig. 5. In Fig. 1, reference character 12 was added. In Fig. 5, reference character R has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets